DEMAND XXIX—STATIONERY AND PRINTING.

Dr. H. Parameswaran : Sir, I rise to move for a supplementary grant of Rs. 4,00,000 under Demand XXIX—Stationery and Printing.

In support of this may I explain to the members of the House that the budget grant for this year is Rs.2,50,000. It was more or less expected to cover the needs of this year. However with the beginning of this year, great anxiety was felt over the possible shortage over stationery materials required in larger numbers for the increased activities of the Registration Department, the Anchal Department, etc., Therefore Government had to make special arrangements with the Government of India for the supply of special paper for these purposes. These demands have increased to the extent of Rs. 4 lakhs on that account. When these materials arrive here, we must be in a position to meet the bills without any delay. This provision is therefore very necessary.

Further, members are already aware that early this year, an unexpected activity had to be taken up by Government by the manufacture of standard note books. An extra expenditure to the extent of Rs. 3 lakhs was incurred therefor. But that arrangement was able to save the people an expenditure amounting to Rs.7 lakhs over costlier note books. Note books at a reasonably low price were thus supplied to the schools and colleges just in time to meet their needs. These expenses could be recuperated by the sale of these books. However we have been forced to stock paper against such contingencies in future and it is expected that a part of this supply may be left over for the next year. Hence I propose the demand for the acceptance of the House.

The question that Government be granted a sum of Rs.4,00,000 under Demand XXIX—Stationery and Printing was put to vote and carried.

The grant was made.

DEMAND XXX—MISCELLANEOUS DEPARTMENTS

35 c. STORES PURCHASE COMMITTEE.

Dr. H. Parameswaran : Sir, I rise to move for a supplementary grant of Rs. 1,635 under Demand XXX—Miscellaneoue Departments 35 c. Stores Purchase Committee.

Sir, the repair section has been now in existence for about 3½ years as an auxiliary to the Stores Purchase Committee activities. Its function is largely in the direction of reconditioning scientific equipment and other delicate materials of government which fall into disorder. In the normal course of things, this department exists as a service organisation. These are days when the price of

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

[Dr. H. Parameswaran.]

scientific materials has gone up very high and so it is cheaper to have the repairs done locally. By effecting such repairs, there is considerable saving as new purchase at high rates is avoided. The department is self-supporting so to say. Therefore, Government have felt the need to continue this repair section for another six months. At present, the present sanction is only for the first six months of the current year. Therefore, I move for the continuance of this department for the next six months as well.

The question that Government be granted a sum of Rs. 1,635 under Demand XXX—Miscellaneous Departments 35 c, Stores Purchase Committee was put and carried.

The grant was made.

President : I am now able to tell the honourable members of the House something which I am sure will gratify them. Some time ago, it may be remembered that this Government very strongly pressed upon the Government of India that on account of the malnutrition of the people, the children were likely to suffer very greatly. It was pointed out that especially in the coastal districts, health and the general standard of living of the children were so poor that this Government were greatly apprehensive about the next generation. I am glad to say that the Government of India have recognised the force of this contention and when the Director General of Medical Services was here, he expressed himself thoroughly satisfied about the need for giving large supplies of milk for expectant nursing mothers and for hospitals and I have just received a telegram in the matter. It says :—

"Your telegram dated 28th December. Supplies of milk from South Africa shipment made. Supplies expected soon....."

That means we are getting a very big proportion of the milk from South Africa. That means, more than 80 per cent of the total expected for the whole of India is to be given to Travancore.

ADJOURNMENT MOTION.

Mr. G. Narayana Aiyar : Sir, I move that

the business of the House be adjourned for the purpose of discussing a matter of urgent public importance caused by the inadequate supply of rice to the State and the difficulties in the transport of the same.

In view of the lucid, instructive and exhaustive statements made by you and the steps you have taken on behalf of this State, to solve the food problem, it might not be of much use to say more on the subject. All the same, the subject being one of food and we being the aggrieved party and in view of the well known problem that necessity knows no law, placing of few facts more for your kind consideration and representation may not be out of place since the problem is causing great anxiety to Travancoreans.

President : A lawyer cannot say that.

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly